

Clean copy of Claims as amended

b1
5bC11 1. (Twice Amended) A furniture piece, which comprises:

a plurality of rib units, each of which has (i) at least one functional surface such that a composite of each of the at least one functional surface of the plurality of rib units defines a functional surface of said furniture piece, and (ii) a single supporting member configured according to a pattern which varies from one rib unit to another such that a composite of the supporting members provides support for said furniture piece and its load wherein each rib has a front and a rear, and said support member in each rib emanates consistently among the rib units from either a front or rear portion thereof;

interconnecting means for securing each of the rib units to the others; and

spacer means for situating each of the rib units in a position which, when secured by the interconnecting means, is separated from each of the adjoining rib units.

b2
5bC2 13. (Amended) A furniture piece comprising:

a plurality of interconnected rib units, each further comprising:

a first functional member defining a first functional surface for performing a first composite function for said furniture piece;

a supporting member emanating consistently from either a front or rear portion of each rib unit;

wherein each supporting member of each rib unit is angularly displaced from its corresponding first functional member, independently of the remaining support members of

said plurality of rib units; and

wherein said plurality of rib units are interconnected such that the independently angled support members define a pattern such that the composite of the supporting members provides support for said furniture piece and its potential occupants.

ShC³ 16. (Amended) A furniture piece comprising:

a plurality of interconnected rib units, each comprising:

a functional surface such that a composite of the functional surface of each of said plurality of rib units defines a functional surface of said furniture piece; and

a supporting member emanating consistently from either a front or a rear portion of each rib unit; and

wherein each said supporting member is configured according to a pattern, with respect to adjacent supporting members, to define a composite supporting member which provides support for said furniture piece and its potential occupants.